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©Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

April 2020

W7DK President's Corner Column

Title: Adapting to our weird new world of Covid-19 2020

This year 2020 will most assuredly go down in history and will long be remembered for the global mess that we now face. The Covid-19 disease and Coronavirus turned most of the world upside down and shut down a huge segment of our economy, not just domestically but in most every country on Earth.

But no point in rehashing any of the salient news facts, data, statistics – any of that. We all have an endless stream of that information bombarding all of us every single day, in the news, on the internet, in Social Media, and from our friends and coworkers

What I DO want to say is I really commend the members of the Radio Club of Tacoma for rising up in this time of crisis and forging a path for us to go on, and continue to thrive as an organization. This month we held not only our first remote Board of Directors meeting via the Zoom teleconferencing platform, but also our first such General meeting. Huge thanks to Adam W2NCC for being the step-up coordinator to get that ball rolling.

Sure, we had some stumbles along the way, and some folks had a more difficult time adapting. But by the time the General Meeting rolled around, I think things were running quite smoothly indeed! Another big shout-out to our Secretary, Mike W7MKE, for putting a great deal of thought and effort, along side Adam W2NCC and myself among others to craft what came to be called the "General Meeting Script". He worked hard to craft an outline for the General Meeting that really kept the dialog on task and we ended up having what I'd consider to be about as good a "first virtual RCT General Meeting" as might be expected. Our total turnout was around 33, all in – so not too terribly

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



DAVE W7UUU

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short of a normal “in person” General Meeting. I want to wish a big thanks to all who made the effort to attend. And it was really kinda fun!

Another new round of Covid-19 club adaptations have involved our Virtual Clubhouse Saturday Morning Zoom meeting event that begins at roughly 8:00 on every Saturday and runs until whenever. Can’t go to the clubhouse, but you can surely do it via Zoom and see all the smiling faces from their homes! You can find the link in an email blast sent to all members. Again, big thanks to Phil K7PIA and Adam W2NCC for teaming up to put this fun event together.

But wait there’s more! Gary McAdams WG7X is now the host of the DEN – or “Donut Eaters Net” roundtable that now meets every Saturday morning on the club repeater. The net is divided into groups, sorted by what type of donut you prefer (glazed, old-fashioned, etc.) and with each donut type, check-ins to the net are taken! Once the formal check-in process is through, it turns into a good old-fashioned roundtable net that runs for a couple of hours! So instead of “going to the clubhouse to chat” you can “go to the DEN” – starts at 10:00 AM every Saturday on the normal 147.28 club repeater with a PL tone of 103.5

In other news, I sent a letter to the Eagles Aerie #3 announcing that we will not at this time be renewing our 12-month contract for every second Saturday. At the recent “virtual Board of Directors meeting” it was decided to not make any further decisions on where our meetings will resume when we can once again have them in person. As a result, the choice of all such social meeting locations and arrangements has been turned back over to the Board of Directors to decide going forward, since the issue is now much more complex than when Anne N7ANN and I were handling that committee. The same will go for the August picnic and the Holiday Awards Banquet. These choices will all be BOD responsibilities due to the current situation.

The future certainly does seem a bit uncertain for a lot of things right now. None of us really knows when the Washington State lockdown will be rescinded. I’m sure State officials are erring on the side of “abundance of caution” but I hope sincerely that this will all end soon, and we can start getting our state and local economies back functioning again.

For now, I wish you all well – stay safe and be well. And regardless of the actions of the government, if you are at all in a “high risk category” please just continue to stay home for your own safety.

The club repeater is on all the time at the W7UUU household and in many many others of our members so if you need something, or just need a kind word, please don’t hesitate to reach out either on the repeater, the phone or via email to any of us.

My best regards to all

Dave
W7UUU

From the Editor

Hello again! I hope that you are all well and sheltering in place this month, and possibly for a few months more until the current emergency has passed. The COVID-19 virus has forced many of us to re-evaluate our daily lives and how we do even the most commonplace activities has changed significantly. To that we say: We have the technology to defeat you, virus!

The RCT has moved most of our daily, weekly & monthly activities to the club's repeaters or to the internet. This gives us lots of flexibility.



Club meetings have been held on the 147.280 MHz repeater a couple of times with much success and to take the place of the weekly Club Open House, we have instituted a new net: The "Doughnut Eaters Net" commonly call just the "The DEN". Each Saturday at 1000 local meet us on the repeater and check in as your favorite doughnut type is called! The net is fairly informal and usually lasts at least an hour, so come prepared to chat!

Prior to the DEN, we have started yet another informal gathering, this time on the internet using a new meeting program called: "ZOOM". This "APP" allows all of us to meet together using our various computers to share a real-time audio—video meeting! We can see each other, chat back and forth and even go to different "virtual rooms" to chat about the same stuff we would be talking about if we were in one of the actual clubhouse rooms. There's the HF room, the "Lou Room", the museum, classroom, and maybe the kitchen? Who knows? It's all up to us. In the beginning, we're all in the same virtual room because there have not been a huge amount of folks trying this out. I have to encourage our fine readers to join the group on either of the two venues.

In addition, the recent club meetings have also been held on Zoom with good success... This may be the best thing since sliced bread! Imagine: No dressing up, (at least from the waist up), no driving to a meeting location and putting up with traffic or weather! It's the 21st century, baby!

So instead of just sitting in your living room, getting depressed by watching the local and national news, join the rest of your forward looking compadres and join in! Whether its on the club repeater or over the internet, join and say hello!

So, I hope to see / hear you all on the club's facilities (virtual that is!) until the end of the present emergency...

73 & until we meet again, Gary WG7X

**On Line Meeting via ZOOM
Radio Club of Tacoma
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
April 1, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 7:09 Pacific DST

Officers and Directors Present

President Dave Ellison W7UUU – **(ZOOM HOST)**

Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Secretary Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board Bruce Hanson WE7P

Board Paul Matney W7PFU

Board Adam Barbera W2NCC – **(ZOOM CO-HOST)**

Board Red Cranefield WB7EC

Board Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum? A quorum was present with all officers and board members present for the entire meeting. A total of 19 people attended all or part of the first ever online meeting of the RCT BOD. Attendance list is attached.

Silent Key or Illness?

Dave Andresen – W7HTJ was visited this week by Mike Mikuchonis who helped him relocate his HF rig. Dave is doing somewhat better for now and Mike reported he was glad to get on the air again.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 4, 2020 RCT BOD meeting were approved as circulated.

Secretary's Report (W7MKE)

Routine stuff, periodicals, bills, membership renewals came in and were properly distributed.

Required corporate filings for non-profits are upcoming and Mike-W7MWF will assist the Secretary in getting them filled out. 2020 Census for clubhouse location was completed. ARRL Annual Report due 4/1/2020 was updated (Thanks W7MWF)

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD)

Steve –AF7YD reported total balance of all accounts was (REDACTED) with all bills paid except property taxes of (REDACTED) which when paid will bring the balance to (REDACTED)

Committee / Reports

Membership (K7GRS)

George – K7GRS reported current membership at 268.

Training (AD7AB)

Stephen - AD7AB March report is attached. The next scheduled class uncertain.

John Clarke - AC7WW VE Testing March report is attached. No date for next VE Testing.

Dave Brooks – N7HT His Amateur Extra training class has been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. No schedule for future training established at this point.

Info Tech and Website (WB4SPB)

Randy WB4SPB reported that all the computers were down, possibly due to power outage. He was going to go to the club to check.

It was not practical to have a vote on the IT Refresh Committee's plan to purchase computers at the April General meeting therefore, a **motion to refer back to the IT committee** for further review until a vote until a vote could be taken, if needed was made by Mike-W7MKE and seconded by Phil-K7PIA. Motion passed without objections.

Randy-WB4SPB sought Board guidance on what this meant—just reintroduce the same IT committee recommendations again or something else? In view of the fact that there is additional input from some members, perhaps the IT committee might consider those ideas and see if a budget that the BOD could approve without a vote of the membership might be an alternative to the original budget.

HF Operations (K7PIA)

Phil-K7PIA reported all stations were working before the clubhouse had to be closed. He reviewed some of the upcoming contests, including state QSO parties.

Al-N7OMS indicated a potential plan to have a club wide RTTY contest, possibly for Logger's Certificates as prizes. Dave-W7UUU indicated support and said he could whip up the appropriate certificates.

Repeater Ops (N7OMS)

Al-N7OMS reported a written report that is attached.

Facilities Mgmt. (W2NCC)

Adam-W2NCC reported a hold on plans to fix the wheelchair ramp, ceiling tiles, and coax relocation with possible updates by next meeting.

Property Mgmt. (WB7EC)

Red-WB7EC reported sales at Mike & Key Hamfest were (REDACTED).

Museum (KR7W)

Rich- KR7W The museum report is attached.

Weds Workshop (WB4SPB)

April was supposed to be about Field Day. Randy indicated possibly doing ZOOM meetings for 4th Wednesday.

Unfinished Business

14th Street encroachment contract was received from the City of Tacoma for review just prior to the meeting so no discussion was held. It was 13 pages of legalese that will need to be reviewed by an attorney. Dave-W7UUU is the lead on this.

New Business

Eagles Club: Due to the Covid-19 situation the Eagles Club is closed and Dave reports it is hard to contact anyone. Our current agreement is due for payment but since we can't use the club for an unknown period, a motion was made by Mike-W7MKE and seconded by Bruce-WE7P to review our needs when the Eagles meeting place becomes available for monthly meetings. The motion passed without objections.

Online or Debit Card: Adam-W2NCC reports it has become needful to have some kind of online account or a club debit card. He found that the Club still had an active PayPal account and obtained the credentials for the account that still has about \$136. Steve-AD7YF reported he had no idea this account existed. It was agreed that the credentials would be passed to the Treasurer and to others as needed.

Virtual Meeting Platform: Due to the fact that for an unknown time, gatherings of people outside of family groups are to be avoided, an online platform for virtual meetings is needed. Adam-W2NCC has been using his free ZOOM account for Club use and it is proving to be inadequate. George Salisbury-K7GRS indicated he has receipts for \$167 for expenses for a mailing and he will forego turning those in, thus donating \$167 if the Club will purchase a ZOOM account with 2-host capabilities. The BOD very much appreciates his generosity.

A **motion was made** by Mike-W7MKE and seconded by Phil-K7PIA to authorize Adam-W2NCC to purchase a ZOOM account with 2-host capabilities if costing \$300 or less. The motion passed without objections.

Clubhouse security: Lately, there have been instances where the clubhouse has been unlocked and/or the alarm not set. There was discussion about what to do with the consensus seeming to be that those with access be reminded of proper procedures for setting the alarms and locking the doors. Adam is authorized to establish a new door pin code and to reissue those codes to appropriate people. In this way a list of those with entry credentials could be certain. Bruce – WE7P has a list now and thinks it is current.

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

Field day 2020: Field Marshal Verna – KF7SCB asked the question: Do we plan on a traditional Field Day at Western State or do we start planning now for a completely new concept for this year? There was considerable discussion but it was decided that W7DK would tell members to do Field Day from home (OR "you're on your own"). If it becomes possible to use the clubhouse we can probably setup the clubhouse as operating base fairly quickly.

How to do General Meetings/ 4th Wed Tech meeting: With the purchase of a better ZOOM platform it is hoped that we can do virtual meetings.

Announcements

SeaPac cancelled for 2020

NW DX Convention cancelled

Various Hamfests cancelled

Adjournment at: 8:44 pm PDST

Respectfully submitted

VE REPORT by John AC7WW

Tuesday March 10th your VE Team had 17 Candidates at the clubhouse. Thirty-three exams were graded with 18 passed. Eleven new technicians joined the Amateur Service, one candidate upgraded to General. One candidate upgraded to Extra. One candidate passed element 3 and 4 to become an Extra. And another candidate passed element 2, 3 and 4 to enter the service as an Extra. Two candidates did not earn an initial license. Thanks to the following for their service and time:

Leonard KA7NWF Rich, KK7VH

John, AD7AW Mike, W7XH

Stephen, AD7AB Phillip, K7PIA

Next scheduled exam session is uncertain.

REPEATER COMMITTEE REPORT: AI, N7OMS

Repeater work on hum completed by KR7W by adding isolation transformer to stop possible ground loop trouble. The 28 hum now seem better with no downside by adding the transformer. Will continue to look for other causes. Like options in the controller? I have received the keys and other documents from team member Tim. I may visit the Bates site as it is very close to my home. But other site visits are being put on hold. Software for controller access has been placed on club laptop and now need to build a cable to interface with controller.

Donated items in garage have been looked at but no decision has been made at this time as to disposition. There is quite a lot of useful gear and some maybe not so useful. The Bates replacement gear and rack that are now in the garage still need testing and configuring and as it was very cold in garage it was decided that warmer weather was called for.

Glad to hear more board and officers check in to the nets (Tuesday & donut eater's)

It is important to stay connected to the membership and other hams at this time. I believe we will see a big upswing in new hams in the coming months and we need to be ready to answer questions and encourage them. Our repeaters are a perfect place to do that.

End of report

MUSEUM REPORT

From: Richard Patrick, KR7W

Date: 3/31/2020

Subject: Museum Report for Board Meeting

The Museum 'Remodel' project is about 95 percent complete with the installation of the new workbench. With most projects- it's the small details that take a lot of time to complete. No different in the Museum. The old timey replica of a 1934 Depression Ham's transmitter, The Acme 2X807, has been dismantled to get it off the floor- where it was always in the way since the new station tables are installed. The purchase of the Board approved expenditure; a New Oscilloscope for the workbench will not be made until RCT is back operational from the virus shutdown. The Heathkit Apache AM Transmitter is still on the 'Surgery Table'. Diagnostics and further testing to determine why there is no modulator current- will continue after the shutdown. One hand in my pocket,
KR7W

Alternative to the IT Refresh Report AI-N7OMS

First I wish to thank the IT refresh team for their work on this issue. After discussing this with several people, instead of replacing all of the club's hardware at once we suggest a more measured approach.

Instead of possibly spending \$5K, we suggest re-using the 3 PCs built in 2012 that are now in the Lou Room, on desk at upstairs landing by museum and in the HF room for the Elecraft. Give them new SSD's and install Windows 10. Bruce-WE7P is going to donate his desktop (now at the Flex Station) that could be upgraded with SSD and Windows 10. According to Rich-KR7W Windows 10 can be done for free using the old Window's License. At that point the club would have 4 upgraded computers and a NUC (a very small form factor computer) that already has Windows 10 for a total of 5 upgraded computers. We can then purchase two new computers and that makes 7.

The IT team could (re)place them as follows: the current library computer that Membership uses might be switched with the newly upgraded computer that is on the desk near the museum. Then use the small NUC PC in that space as that computer is only used for accessing the Web and library content. As for the UHF VHF station that is a good place for Bruce's upgraded computer. The two newly purchased computers use in the classroom and for the Flex. With the classroom PC upgraded, presenters wouldn't need to provide their own computer. The Flex seems to be the most CPU intensive computer so a new PC there is reasonable. Checking on New Egg with Bruce we found several modest sized SATAII SSD's for under \$50 and mounting hardware for about \$10. Add 2 new computers at about \$1,000 and you have a budget of around \$1500. The Router and WiFi are separate issues from the computer's and the refresh committee should be given the budget (maybe not to exceed \$400) to go ahead and purchase the device's needed to protect the club's data. I realize these are unsettled times and money flow for the club may be affected. On the other side with usage down it should be easier to upgrade now and not affect normal membership usage.

To: RCT Business Managers

From: Richard Patrick, KR7W

Date: 3/31/2020

Subject: I urge RCT not to spend \$5,000 for new PCs for the clubhouse. This message is to make RCT officers and board of directors aware that the club can upgrade the clubhouse PCs with the needed Windows 10 operating system to provide support and security without purchasing all new PCs. This message is also to support fellow club member, AI N7OMS, who will present a proposal to RCT managers to adopt in lieu of the IT Refresh Committee's proposal Ver .4, date 3/4/2020. Please consider my reasoning: The IT Refresh Committee report states that the existing clubhouse PCs have been performing satisfactorily. The report does not consider the option of upgrading all or part of the existing PCs used in the clubhouse. According to the report- Four of the existing PCs are 'strong' performers, CPU performance-wise. The fourth from the top performer, a PC donated by WE7P, currently used at the Flex HF station works the hardest running Flex Radio functions. The report notes that this PCs CPU usage is 50 percent maximum. It's reasonable to presume that the top 3 PCs, at the other clubhouse workstations do not come close to the same CPU usage. It seems more than reasonable to upgrade the 4 strong performer PCs with Solid State Drives (about \$50 each) and Windows 10 and put them back into clubhouse service. Based on successfully upgrading Five PCs 5 to 15 years old at my house by adding solid state drives along with Windows 10... The probability is high that the remaining clubhouse PCs (along with the 4 PCs mentioned above) can be successfully upgraded to Windows 10 and perform satisfactorily to be used at clubhouse work stations that do not need a high CPU usage, i.e. The Membership work station or VHF station as a logging computer. Of course there may be conditions and limitations with these older PCs working with Windows 10- so purchasing a solution could be required- but until

Windows 10- so purchasing a solution could be required- but until attempting to reuse the existing PCs- nothing ventured, nothing gained. The report recommends upgrading the Network Router and Wireless Access Point with new equipment- which should be done to protect the club's data from miscreant hackers and crackers. The report also states that the NAS storage system is still supported and unless more storage is needed- It makes sense that the club address the upgrade of this equipment down the road, closer to its end of manufacture support date or a failure occurs.

Thank You,
KR7W

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

GENERAL (ZOOM ONLINE) MEETING

APRIL 11TH 2020

The online meeting was called to order at 1:30pm PDT

Officers and Directors Present:

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Secretary	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
Board	Paul Matney K7PFU
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Bruce Hansen WE7P

Approximately 32 members attended the online meeting in whole or in part, as recorded by the secretary. The Attendance List is attached. President Dave introduced the format of the online meeting that required some changes from in person meetings. For this meeting the Secretary will read committee reports as delivered at the RCT BOD meeting April 4.

No Pledge of Allegiance

No Self Introductions or guests

Health and Welfare: Dave Andresen – W7HTJ was visited this week by Mike Mikuchonis who helped him relocate his HF rig. Dave is doing somewhat better for now and Mike reported he was glad to get on the air again.

President's Report

None

W7MKE: Secretary's Report: Routine stuff, periodicals, bills, membership renewals came in and were properly distributed. Required corporate filings for non-profits are upcoming and Mike-W7MWF will assist the Secretary in getting them filled out. 2020 Census for clubhouse location was completed. ARRL Annual Report due 4/1/2020 was updated (Thanks W7MWF)

W7MKE: Treasurer's Report: Steve –AF7YD reported healthy club balance after paying the property taxes this year. A reminder that income will be severely off now that there will be reduced property sales or other income like raffles.

Committee / Reports

W7MKE: Membership: George – K7GRS reported current membership at 268.

W7MKE: Training: Stephen-AD7AB and Mike trained 12 people March 7-8 for technician class.

VE Report: John Clarke - AC7WW AND VE CREW tested Tuesday March 10th and had 17 Candidates. Thirty-three exams were graded with 18 passed. Eleven new technicians joined the Amateur Service, one candidate upgraded to General. One candidate upgraded to Extra. One candidate passed element 3 and 4 to become an Extra. And another candidate passed element 2, 3 and 4 to enter the service as an Extra. Two candidates did not earn an initial license.

No dates at this time for future VE Testing.

Dave Brooks – N7HT His Amateur Extra training class has been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

For now, No schedule for future training established at this point.

Info Tech and Website: In March Randy- WB4SCB led an ad hoc IT Refresh committee and brought a proposal to the BOD that was discussed and approved to go to the membership for a vote. Then, at the April BOD meeting, the BOD didn't know how to set up a vote at an online general meeting plus other alternate proposals were submitted. So the board sent the computer issue back to committee for further review. Either a less expensive alternative might be forthcoming that the BOD can approve or the Board will determine how to accomplish a vote at a general club online meeting should it be required. At any rate, since we can't use the clubhouse it's an issue we have time to consider further.

HF Operations: Phil-K7PIA reported all stations were working before the clubhouse had to be closed.

Repeater Ops: Al-N7OMS indicated that the hum on the 147.280 repeater has been worked on by Rich KR7W. Seems to be better, if not please bring it up later in the meeting. Al has received all the keys and documentation on repeaters and recruited Jimmy K7SSS along with Rich-KR7W to assist with ongoing improvements to all the repeaters.

Facilities Mgmt. : Adam-W2NCC reported a hold on plans for club repairs and improvements.

W7MKE: Property Mgmt: Red-WB7EC reported sales at Mike & Key Hamfest were \$1908. Sorry, no more raffles or property sales for now.

Museum: Rich- KR7W reported most of the museum rearrangement and remodeling is completed. He's holding off on the acquisition of the Board approved oscilloscope for now.

Weds Workshop: April was supposed to be about Field Day. We're going to try a ZOOM meetings for 4th Wednesday and Verna wants to try a Wednesday night at 7pm FD net on 147.280. It will be for FD topics, portable power, antennas, logging that type of stuff as it looks like our Western Washington site and a group gathering is not going to happen.

Unfinished Business: W7UUU: 14th Street encroachment contract was received from the City of Tacoma for review just prior to the BOD meeting. It is 13 pages of legalese that will need to be reviewed by an attorney.

New Business : Eagles Club: Due to the Covid-19 situation the Eagles Club is closed and it is hard to contact anyone. Our current agreement is due for payment but since we can't use the club for an unknown period, we'll review our needs when the Eagles meeting place becomes available for monthly meetings.

Online or Debit Card: In order to set up ZOOM meetings and other things, BOD decided we needed a PayPal account or debit card and Adam-W2NCC asked around and found out that the Club's old PayPal account was active and had about \$130 in it. He got the credentials and those are passed to Treasurer Steve-AD7YF who can distribute the credentials as needed.

Virtual Meeting Platform: Our trials with a free ZOOM meeting platform showed us we needed to upgrade so the Board approved having Adam acquire a better ZOOM. George Salisbury-K7GRS had spent \$167 on some club mailing and offered to forego being reimbursed if the Club upgraded to a 2 host ZOOM platform. The Board really appreciated George's generosity and accepted the gift which Adam used toward the purchase of this ZOOM platform.

General Program: VERNA – KF7SCB Verna offered a program that was an update on Field Day possibilities. For now, plan A seems to be everyone on their own with club assistance and group discussions on Wednesday night Net meeting on 147.280 at 7pm for help with logging, antenna questions or anything else of FD interest. There are online discussions at WWW.ARRL.org and a YouTube video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeumSDLXBKM>

Tuning and Traffic: Dave – W7UUU recently received QSL cards from the NW Bureau, the dates of some of the contacts noted on the cards were from 1997! Additionally he received cards from supposed contacts from his 2017 K1T Special Event from places he's never contacted!!

Announcements: SeaPac cancelled for 2020, NW DX Convention cancelled, Various Hamfests cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT AT 2:15pm PDT

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Drorbaugh – W7MKE

RCT Secretary

VIRTUAL MEETING ATENDEES

1	Dave Ellison	W7UUU
2	Mike Drorbaugh	W7MKE
3	Steve Dightman	AF7YD
4	Adam Barbera	W2NCC
5	Phil Pia	K7PIA
6	Paul Matney	W7PFU
7	Bruce Hansen	WE7P
8	Red Cranefield	WB7EC
9	Patrick Vaglica	K7DKP
10	John Marsden	Ki7YRC
11	P.J. Hicks	N7PH
12	Chris Porter	AA7KL
13	David Jerauld	KJ7AKG
14	Doug Schafer	K7KDG
15	Gary McAdam	WG7X
16	Jan Gilbertson	K7HTU
17	Jim Pallwitz	W7ZND
18	Joe Rempe	KJ7JAY
19	Larry Watson	KD4VOM
20	Tim Timblin	K7HF
21	Verna Lilly	KF7SCB
22	David Sharpes	K7GCA
23	Walt Morey	WA7SDY
24	Doug Wenzen	KI7QQK
25	Bob Garden	KF7GPO
26	Randy Myers	WB4SPB
27	Deanna Jenks	KA7DCX
28	George Salisbury	K7GRS
29	Steve Schenk	K7YEM
30	Phil Shideler	KC7PS
31	Al Ferguson	N7OMS
32	Dick Marsden	N7RHV

History of the Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

From the Beginning Until Just the Other Day

Dedicated to Larry Watson KD4VOM, Inspirational Leader

Douglas E. Oakman AD7AV / Librarian, Archivist, and Historian, General Editor

Contributors: Peter Baker AD7EU, Adam Barbera W2NCC, Steve Dightman AF7YD, Dave Ellison W7UUU, Al Ferguson N7OMS, Randy Myers WB4SPB, Debbie Oakman KD7UYN, Rich Patrick KR7W, George Salisbury K7GRS, Sue Schub KF7SOW, Pat Wingerter WT7N, Nick Winter K7MO

INTRODUCTION

Voluntary associations rarely last for over a century. Although extremely important in people's lives, many centenary churches do not write their own histories. But the history of the Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK (RCT) closely parallels the history of radio itself and has an intrinsic community interest. Radio or wireless indeed has turned out to be one of the most important technologies in the history of humankind. For interesting accounts of background and important figures in the development of radio, the reader can turn to the books and websites listed in the bibliography. Especially valuable and accessible is the website <http://www.astrosurf.com/luxorion/qs1-ham-history.htm>.

IN THE BEGINNING

Technical developments in the nineteenth century, including the study of electricity, the development of landline telegraphy, and experimentation with wireless transmissions laid the ground for ham radio. By the early 1900's America and the world had seen the value of moving information quickly over long distances. Just as the work of people like Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail replaced the semaphore and Pony Express with landline telegraphy, the efforts of Tesla, Fessenden, Marconi, Fleming, De Forest, and Armstrong (among many others) were moving the world into the age of wireless. One of the greatest figures in the history of twentieth-century radio would be Edwin Armstrong, whose genius discovered regeneration, invented the superhet (supersonic-heterodyne) receiver, and conquered natural static (QRN) through frequency modulation.

Against this background, a small group of enthusiastic young men and women were drawn to the emerging and fascinating wireless technology. For The Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK (the original call 7DK belonged to Edward F. Drake), it began late in 1915 with eight young men meeting in each other's homes to explore the challenging new technology of radio communications. Within a year the group had formed The Radio Club of Tacoma with seventeen charter members. They developed an organizational structure and were active advocates of the new technology called "wireless," and of what would come to be called amateur radio. They met weekly, taught code before each meeting, and theory once a week to gain additional members; and by the time World War I broke out, they were up to thirty members.

Four founding figures are especially notable in the club's story.

Alvin Stenso 7LB 7LV (1899-1988) – Alvin was an Honorary Life member of RCT. Most of his life was spent in or near Tacoma. It was in 1916 that fifteen-year-old Clifford Spike (later "Doc" Spike W7OS) was delivering the local newspaper to Stenso's house at 1922 South J Street. This is just at the foot of the "J" Street water tower, upon which Al climbed to put his antenna and strung down to his house. He reported that painters on the tower took his antenna wire down; but in a short time, he was back up on the tower to anchor his antenna. As for young Spike, he was immediately drawn to the new club as a charter member and later became an important club leader in his own right.



Al Stenso became the first treasurer of the RCT in 1916. The following year he was elected to president and served in that office in 1918 and 1921. He received his first license (second class) in 1915 and his first class amateur license in 1916. He started construction of the commercial broadcast radio station (KGB) in Tacoma for the William A. Mullin Electric Co. and the Tacoma Ledger. The station began broadcasting on April 1, 1922. Stenso was a great promoter. On July 30, 1922, he was married to Borgheld Severtson in the radio station, and the complete marriage ceremony was broadcast live from the studio. This was the first of eight marriages for Stenso. In time, he and a later wife moved into the Rogue Valley Manor in Medford Oregon. After moving into the retirement home he re-activated his call K7LV, but soon he turned his talents to painting and carving. After a few years he was elected president of the Southern Oregon Society of Artists.

Edwin E. Moe 7AG (1898-1970) – Edwin was born in Bisbee, ND and lived in the Tacoma area since 1904. Moe was the first secretary of the Radio Club of Tacoma. He was an instructor for twenty-five years at the Vocational-Technical Institute of Tacoma, before retiring in 1963. He was also a member of the Boilermakers Union.

Howard Grey Reichert 7HR (1896-1967) – Howard was born in Belvidere, IL and moved to Tacoma in 1912. He became the first president of the club in 1916, and served as president again in 1920-1921. [Appendix 2 lists all club presidents as far as can be determined from club records.] The earliest known picture of members of the Radio Club of Tacoma taken around 1917 was at Reichert's Radio and Motorcycle Shop at South 9th and Tacoma Avenue (where the club was then meeting). He programmed the very first amateur broadcasting radio station in Tacoma, later to become KMO. Reichert retired after a career as a television and electronics engineer. He was a member of the Episcopal Church and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Dwight Allyn Mason 7DL (1898-1977) – Dwight was born in Winchendon, MA, and evidently came to the Tacoma area early in life. It is recorded in *BARK Alumni Notes* by Doc Spike that the first meeting of the Radio Club took place in Mr. Mason's home October 20, 1916 (but Al Stenso says it was fall 1915). Mason is noted in this way in the Lincoln High School yearbook of 1917, "Dwight Mason, Eddie Rickenbacker's only rival when it comes to speeding on a motorcycle." Mason became the first vice president of the Radio Club of Tacoma. He was a salesman for the Hunt and Mottet Co. of Tacoma and later owned and operated the Vissel Lumber and Hardware Co. of Key Center. Also, he was a member of the Tacoma Elks Lodge for many years and of the Retired Teachers Association.

The Radio Club of Tacoma and the amateurs from the Olympia club were very close in the early years. In part this connection was because of St. Martin's Father Sebastian Ruth who had established station KGY at Lacey. Father Ruth played a pivotal role in the 1916 relay network demonstration from this Lacey station. St. Martin's station was responsible for many young students developing an interest in amateur radio, including Winifred Dow 7FG (1902-2000), an early member of the Radio Club of Tacoma who became the first licensed woman amateur radio operator in the Pacific Northwest. She playfully called herself "First Girl" (after her suffix FG; after WWI she became 7CB).

In the August 1917 QST, Winifred Dow's place in radio history was noted and secured:

"With a claim to the distinction of being the first and only licensed girl operator of wireless telegraphy in the Pacific Northwest, Miss Winifred Dow of Tacoma Saturday received from the United States Government through the radio inspector at Seattle, the license and authority to operate a second-class amateur wireless station. Miss Dow, though engaged in the study and practice of wireless telegraphy for only a few weeks, has shown such a proficiency in the science that a license was granted her upon her first request.





Of a mechanical turn of mind and displaying an ability to use tools more fitted for a man's hands, she has made a great part of her wireless outfit herself, the efficiency of which is said to show in no small way her skill in handiwork. The receiving set, which is quite an elaborate affair, is enclosed in a well finished cabinet of slash grained Washington fir. The sending set, though not as powerful as Miss Dow says she would wish it to be, has, however, shown its ability to transmit good distances. The construction of a one-kilowatt transformer is now her ambition, and with the installation of such an addition to her station her outfit will rank with the best that amateurs are allowed.

"Miss Dow became interested in wireless through her visits to a wireless station in connection with St. Martin's abbey at Lacey, Wash, one of the best and far reaching amateur stations in this district, and her insight and understanding of this branch of science, she says, is due to the Rev. Father Sebastian Ruth O. S. B., operator of that station, who has instructed and helped her in the construction and operation of her station.

"Miss Dow is 14 years old and is at present completing the eighth grade in the Visitation Academy. After her grammar grades she will take up a course of science in the high school, in the meanwhile perfecting herself in Wireless.

"Miss Dow lives with her parents and older sister Bertha, who has also shown promise of becoming an enthusiastic Wireless operator, at 2329 South K Street. The official call assigned Miss Dow is 7FG, the No. 7 denoting the district which comprises the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana, and the letters the special ones assigned to her station."

WORLD WAR I

Amateur radio was prohibited during both world wars, but amateurs played their part in serving military communications. Al Stenso, for instance, served as a radio operator aboard the USS Westward Ho that was torpedoed but did not sink in the Atlantic. His SOS transmissions helped to save the ship. Meanwhile, back at home, the situation was touchy. Norman Arndt, after testing a Tesla coil for a July 4 parade, was hauled before a Navy official and accused of operating his radio illegally. Arndt was said to have had his apparatus at the Standard Hotel, "a socialist and I.W.W. headquarters" (by implication—subversive!). Karl Weingarten and Norman Arndt, because of their names, were accused of being German spies!

The next installment traces the reorganization of the club after WWI, its important activities, and acquisition of a permanent home ... stay tuned to this frequency ... SK... Next installment will come in the May 2020 Loggers Bark.

[BREAK HERE FOR END OF PART I]





ARES MATTERS

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Western Washington Section

District 5, Pierce County ARES

www.PierceCountyARES.net



May 2020

Greetings, fellow Hams!

ARES MATTERS provides information about amateur radio emergency communications, Pierce County ARES activities, and events; courtesy of the Radio Club of Tacoma, *Loggers Bark*. ARES is an ARRL organization dedicated to Amateur Radio Emergency Communication through proficiency and preparedness.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have suspended all in-person meetings and classes until further notice. However, you may still become a member and access our online training materials. We highly encourage radio operators to familiarize themselves with procedures, protocols, and etiquette by participating in our regularly scheduled NETS.

ARES protocols during the COVID 19 response

While District 5, Pierce County ARES has not had a change in alert or activation status, we have instituted some new protocols during the "Stay at Home" order.

District 5, Pierce County ARES, has been conducting a daily Resource and Information NET at 1100 AM every morning on the W7AAO 145.3700 W MHz repeater. The purpose of this net is for ARES members to report their status and availability to support operations, and to disseminate information across the organization. All Amateurs are welcome to participate. The data collected during this NET is reported to the WA State RACES Officer (Camp Murray), ARRL Section Manager, and the ARES Section Emergency Coordinator.

We have instituted a virtual training program via the Zoom application. We have conducted two Zoom training sessions thus far, and both have been well attended. Zoom sessions are only available for ARES members due to the security risks associated with open Zoom sessions. Our first two Zoom sessions focused on Field Sanitation and Tactical Communications. Some of the upcoming subjects include forms familiarization, activation protocols, incident check-in procedures, field site safety and setup, communications planning, initial and change over briefings, and potentially new member orientation if the response continues for a prolonged period.

We have also been conducting over the air training NETs focusing on Winlink Peer to Peer sessions. We also have over the air voice traffic sessions planned. Over the air, training sessions are announced during the daily Resource and Information NET.

Pierce County District 5 Website: <http://www.piercecountyares.net/web>

ARES Membership Application: <http://www.piercecountyares.net/web/application>

Twitter: @ARESWWADist5

Gary Emmons

District 5 PIO

KH2AY

newsletter@piercecountyares.net

Committed to our Community
When All Else Fails



Loggers certificate and RTTY: Al, N7OMS has an Idea!

What can the club do to help continue the growth of ham radio skills in its members during this time of personal confinement? One thing that doesn't require personal contact is encouraging members to try new modes of operation.

During a conversation with the new club secretary Mike W7MKE, we got to talking about radioteletype abbreviated: RTTY. This legacy mode was given new life when the need for cumbersome teletypewriter equipment was no longer needed due to the personal computer and software replacing the physical machinery. Mike had expressed a desire to learn more about this mode. We had both gotten some experience together last year during a RTTY contest until the power supply on the Flex station decided it had had enough.

It is much easier when you are just sitting down to a station and all the kinks have already been worked out for you. Yes you do have to learn how to use the programs and equipment. Then trying to set things up at your home station with the different cables you need the correct program settings for your kind of radio and of course the menu settings that may be deep in the woods of your radio you learn all kinds of new expletives.

It is always my goal to include a couple of RTTY contests on the clubs contest schedule. This year we need to try a different approach due to the no contact rules. After soliciting help from Club President Dave W7UUU and Barkie editor Gary WG7X, this is one of the ideas we are going to try.

If you go to the clubs website and click on activities then scroll down and find the Logger's Certificate you will see that if you have a QSO with 10 members you qualify for the esteemed Loggers Certificate with endorsements for each 10 more. This may be done with any mode any band. How cool if you used RTTY to do this. In the past it was mostly done with FM repeater contacts but RTTY brings a hold new challenge.

So with that in mind I challenge all club members to fire up the radioteletype machines or their station computer and get on the air the weekend of May 16th and 17th. Of course you can make contacts at any time; I was just thinking that if we announce a certain weekend we can all practice some RTTY together and work towards a new piece of wall paper. Since none of us will be going to Dayton for the Hamfest you can drown your sorrows with the tones of RTTY coming out of your stations speakers. Does kind of sound like the neighbor dogs crying at the moon.

If you are new to RTTY then you might want to check out the program 2Tone by David Wicks, G3YYd. Which can be found on the rttycontesting.com website. Or if you already use N1MM then MMTTY will dovetail nicely with what you already have setup. I got this information from the Nov/Dec 2013 issue of National Contest Journal in an article about software for testers.

One last thing of note. Keep your eyes and ears open cause it is rumored that maybe the club will be hosting a practice field day. Even mention of a prize or at least bragging rights. The thoughts behind this is that maybe some could use a chance to try out your backyard setup.

Handy Talkie vs The Repeater

You're Comin' In Kinda Scratchy

By RadioMan KX7RM



Due to the Covid19 Virus Shelter in Place directive... There is a dramatic increase in activity on the Club's 147.280 repeater. In addition to the usual Tuesday Nite Net– The New Saturday Donut Eaters and the Wednesday W7DK Field Day Discussion Nets have gained popularity. It looks like being "shut in" has attracted a lot more use of the previously almost dormant repeater.

I'm in Gig Harbor using a 5 Watt Baeofeng with original antenna

Effective
Radiated
Power
= .05 Watts
or 50 mW



If you have been monitoring– you may have heard a QSO that goes something like this: "This is KX7XYZ calling for a radio check". A helpful ham responds with something like this: "XYZ, this is KX7RM, name is Reeves, I can hear you but your signal sounds weak and *scratchy* and hard to understand. Where are you at? And what kind of radio are you using?"

KX7XYZ continues, "I am in Gig Harbor on my deck using a new Baeofeng UV5R set to 5 watts. Do I really sound scratchy? I hear you pretty clear." Perhaps you, gentle repeater user– have responded in a similar way to the ham with the scratchy and hard to understand signal.

Ever wonder why XYZ ham sounds scratchy to you... but you sound clear to XYZ? The **purpose of this article**– without being too technical and using algebra– is to explain this phenomenon and what can usually be done to improve it.

But first... Some useful radio terms:

ERP or Effective Radiated Power– is the RF Power, in Watts, that leaves the antenna when Push to Talk is operated. ERP accounts for the power output, RF losses in the coax cable and the type of antenna. Antennas have gain or loss that is figured into the total amount of ERP.

HT is Handy Talkie or sometimes called Hand Held or Portable. Your author has noticed that when the operator mentions that they are using a HT... the other hams that are listening will automatically think that a **Baeofeng** hand held radio is being used.

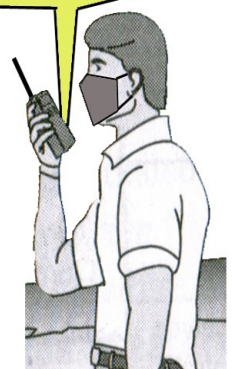
dB or decibels is a relative unit of measurement used to express the ratio of one value of a power to another. 3dB=x2 increase, 10dB=x10 increase, 20dB=x100 increase, -3dB=x/2 decrease, -10dB=x/10 decrease and so on per your General Class License Manual.

Just because KX7XYZ is using a 5 watt hand held radio – doesn't mean that the transmitted signal leaving the antenna is 5 watts as it begins its journey through space. The **HT** comes with an inexpensive whip antenna that's convenient and safe to use. But the shortness of the antenna and the material it is made from introduces **LOSS** that attenuates the Radio Frequency levels being transmitted and received.

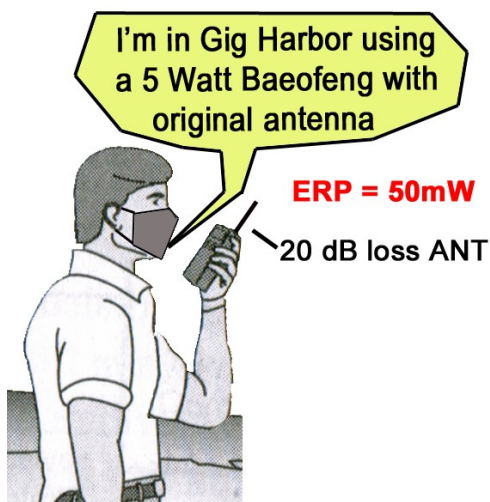
An article in the October 2018 Bark concluded that the stock Baeofeng antenna introduces approx 20 dB of loss (1/100) in the signal path. The 5 watt signal from the radios internal transmitter becomes .05 W or 50 milli-watts ERP being transmitted toward the repeater.

If using simplex (no repeater) KX7XYZ's 50 mW ERP signal will probably sound clear to KX7RM's mobile radio if the path is no longer than a couple of miles. But if KX7RM is also using a HT with stock antenna instead of the mobile radio set up... the signal received will be reduced by an additional 20 dB (1/100) which is effectively .0005 Watts or 500 micro-watts passing into KX7RM's HT receiver. Exponential scratchy-ness.

You are very scratchy coming into the repeater



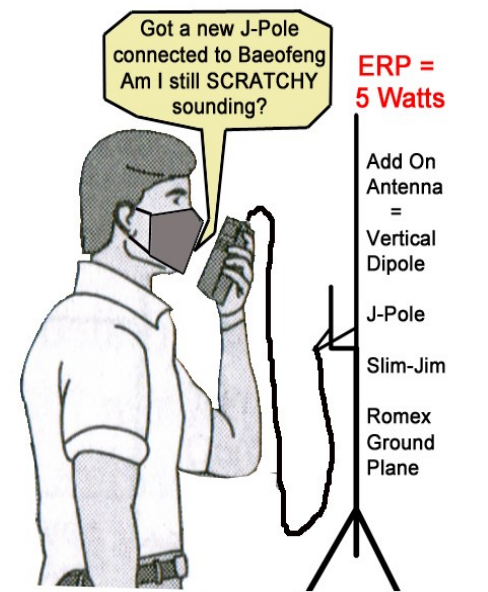
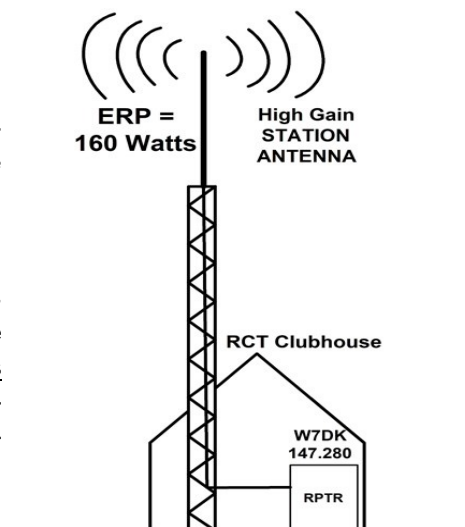
Good to know Factoid: Most mobile radio installations are 50 watts RF Output, connected to a 5/8 Wave Length antenna— which has a gain of approx 2 dB. The ERP becomes approx 80 watts. The received signal is also boosted the same 2 dB (x1.6) amount.



Fun Factoids

The DK repeaters transmit ERP signal is **3200** times stronger than the HTs 50 mW ERP transmit signal.

Since the HTs antenna presents 20dB of loss to its receiver— the HTs receive signal level calculates to be 32 times stronger than the scratchy signal being received by the DK repeaters receiver.



The DK repeaters receiver is capturing a signal 32 times weaker than the HTs receiver does. No wonder the HT user hears the DK repeater signal more clearly vs the other way around. What if two HT users are chatting with each other through the repeater? Scratchy each way? How can the HT user increase their transmitters output level to minimize their signals scratchyness? **Right!** Let's add a 0 dB loss antenna to increase the signal level that the repeaters receiver captures.

KX7XYZ now uses a gifted J-Pole antenna (zero dB loss) connected to his 5 W Baeofeng HT. The ERP is 5 watts, which calculates to a **100 times stronger signal being received by the repeaters receiver**. The HTs receive signal level has increased by the same significant amount.

Now, everybody hears and understands KX7XYZ much better. Your author has learned that KX7XYZ plans on building a zero dB loss HT antenna, not sure what kind yet. Maybe a J-Pole or Dipole or Ground Plane? Then give the gifted J-Pole to another HT user who needs to clean up their scratchy signal into the repeater.

Ham Radio is a great hobby to 'pay it forward'.

73, RadioMan KX7RM

MAIL BAG: WE GET LETTERS!

First up is John Marsden KI7YRC:

Back in January I put together a simplex net on Saturday nights at 8 pm on frequency 146.55. I just wanted to give it a try and see how interested people would be for a simple simplex net, and to get people thinking more outside the box of expanding the knowledge that we can learn. When the first night came along and had a very successful turn out of about 20 people ranging from Tacoma to far north of Camano island. After the first night of doing the net, everyone asked if this will be something that keeps going and sure enough each passing week of the net we keep attracting more people. Since now that we are in a middle of a pandemic going on with a virus, it shows more people are coming back to the radios and finding out about the new nets that have popped up. Plus it's a great way to learn to pass traffic along for when a major problem occurs. Not only is there voice check in's we have peer to peer winlink going with a couple operators as well. I also included an unofficial picture of the logo for the simplex net as well. Thanks! John ki7yrc



8 PM - 146.55 😊

Every Saturday!

Next: Bob Heselberg

DX60/HG10 that I just got on the air. More reports later on how good it works.

Bob K7MXE



We'll be waiting for Bob's report on this, right?

Next up: Jim Hatfield K7SSS with some Elecraft info!

I ran across this stand while surfing the web. The site is the NOGA QRP Club. www.nogagr.org Select products on the left menu and scroll down to see the various styles. I purchased the KX3-PX3 3060 stand. There isn't a lot of room at my apartment, so stacking the PX3 over the KX3 helps a lot. You can stuff excess wires behind the KX3. Nice! The price includes shipping. It only took 3 days from GA to WA! I highly recommend the stand if you don't have lots of room. It looks very nice and has small feet so it doesn't move around as you tune the KX3 or the PX3.



That's it for the mailbag today! Be sure to send in your cards and letters to: bark-editor@w7dk.org

Build the... 2 Meter The Lazy Pole Antenna

By Shelter Bound KR7W This antenna was built to substitute for the inadequate kid's toy antennas that came with my 2 inexpensive Chicom handy talkies. This antenna's performance is identical to a J-Pole or Slim Jim, smaller in size and is inexpensive and **easy** to build. The **easy** in this case equates to **lazy** in the article's title. This antenna is designed around the lesser known—Sleeve Dipole, aka the Coaxial Dipole.

The coaxial dipole uses a length of coax as the radiating elements. Like most dipoles, it has two 1/4 WL (wave length) elements or 'poles'.

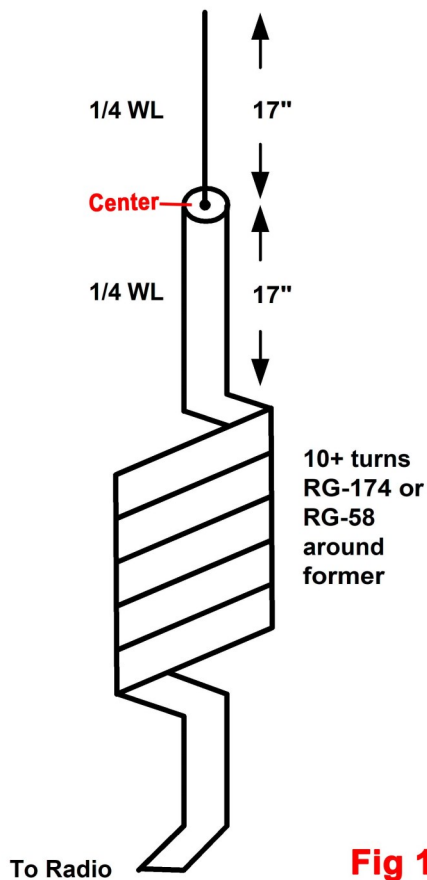


Fig 1

The top pole is the center conductor of the coax with the shield removed 17-19" from the end. The bottom pole is the coax cable with jacket and shield intact, 17-19" long from the center to the beginning of the choke that consists of 10 turns of coax wound around the *former*—the vertical support, in this case a 3/4 x 48" wood dowel. Note: The former could be PVC pipe.

The remaining length of coax needs the proper connector or adapter to mate with your radio. More info about radio connectors later.

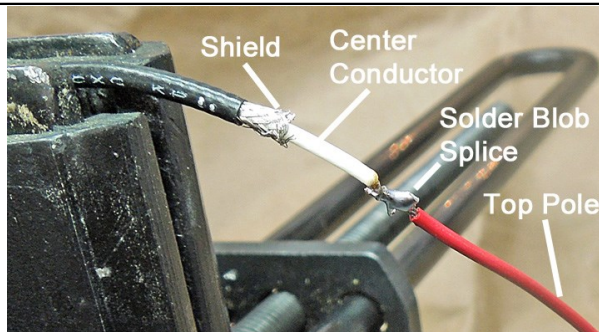
Most coaxial dipole designs found via Google show both 1/4 WL poles encased in PVC pipe with the choke coil on the outside. The PVC pipe, depending on thickness, shortens the electrical length of the poles. The antenna is more difficult to cut and move the choke location— to tune it for best SWR. As it must be taken apart, top element cut, bottom element choke coil moved, then put back together to retest. Even Marconi couldn't do this in only one try.

The Lazy approach is to affix the poles to the outside of the former—with tape or cable ties instead of stuffing it into a PVC pipe. Step by Step of how I built my Lazy Pole follows.

Prepare the coax cable. A 15 ft length of 1/8" thick RG-174 was used. 1/4" RG-58 will work but it is harder to work with and the loss difference is negligible. My coax has a BNC connector on the radio end. Coax adaptors will be used to match my two radios that have different antenna connectors. When purchasing a pre-connectorized cable— make sure that the provided connector matches your radio, or use adaptors.

The end of the coax was cut back to expose the center conductor. Then a 19" piece small gauge wire was spliced to the center, soldered, then heat shrink tubing added for strength. The builder could cut 19" of the outer jacket and shield from the coax to expose the center conductor if desired.

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Attach coax to the former. A couple of inches from the top use tape or cable ties to attach the top element to the top of the former. Leave some wire dangling out for easy trimming. Attach the coax to the measured point where the choke coil begins.



Wind the Choke. The choke was added by turning the former and guiding the coax. 10 turns is a good guess. Tape it down. I got carried away and ended up with 12 turns but wasn't concerned because my coax had enough remaining slack to reach the radio and more turns will not hurt.

Outside testing. The Lazy Pole was supported vertically on the patio table with a hand screw clamp... SWR testing began. With a 19" upper pole wire and the choke beginning 17" from the center point... 1 to 1 SWR was achieved at 142 MHz. A couple of snips on the top pole results a SWR of 1.3 at 146.5 MHz with the top pole length of 17.0". See Fig 1 for final measurements.

The Final Thrust. Two pieces of 3/4" plywood were cut to 10 x 10", screwed together, and a 3/4" hole through-drilled to accept the wood dowel former. The Lazy pole is easily removed from the base to take inside.



Your author relaxes in the lock down compound patio area talking on the Capitol Peak repeater with a 5 Watt Baofeng HT using the Lazy Pole. "Your sounding in clear in Rochester."

BREAKING NEWS! This just in: KR7W & K7DKP Late entries for the mailbag!



KR7W's Vintage Vacuum Tube CW Station: Lower Left– WRL Globe Chief Transmitter (1955)- about 50W output. On top= Heathkit VF-1 VFO (1951) and Jones Micro-Match Power Meter (1960). Lower Right– Hallicrafters SX-101A Receiver (1957) and **Big h** speaker. Each piece of equipment has been rebuilt and somewhat modified to be more stable. The VFO and Big **h** receiver are non-drifty stable after 30 minute warm up. The Big **h** receiver sold for \$279 in 1957, which is \$2600 today.- You could buy an IC-7300, Heil Headset, and an AL-811 Amp.





Pix of Patrick's Apartment antenna farm!
Good Job Patrick! Just goes to show what a
little imagination and drive can achieve!

Go get that DX Patrick!



Field Day at Home Update, by Verna KF7SCB

ARRL has challenged us all to use this year's Field Day as an opportunity to adapt and overcome. Well, let us do it. Lets make this Field Day one for the books with a high level of participation and creative ideas.

Here is where we are at this point:

Bring Your Own Log:

Everybody use whatever logging program you prefer and submit your individual entry to ARRL. Send a summary to me and I'll make a spreadsheet and we'll have our own in-house totals. We'll come up with some awards with certificates (Dave UUU has some ideas) and celebrate our accomplishments in the BARK.

Meet You in the Zoom Room:

We'll have a Zoom meeting open for the duration of Field Day. It'll be for visiting, sharing meals together and people can use the chat area for questions, messages, etc. This will contribute to the social aspect we all love about Field Day.

Do Something Different:

Get outside the box of your usual operations and try something new. Maybe try a kind of emergency power you haven't tried before, or a portable antenna. Set up a backyard station and take a picture. Do a crazy experiment (safely) and take a picture of that for show and tell in the Zoom Room. Be creative; have fun.

Between now and Field Day is a good opportunity to set up a practice portable station. Send a photo to Gary WG7X for the Bark! If you have any suggestions for making this year's Field Day more fun, more interesting or more better (yes, I did that on purpose), let me know. I look forward to a great FD@Home with you all!

Verna KF7SCB



Video Conferencing Technology

Adam W2NCC

The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has changed our usual social habits. For the foreseeable future, we will not be having our Saturday clubhouse get together, in person board meetings or general meetings. We needed a solution that would allow us to have some type of community interaction but without the health risks. So, I have been experimenting with video conferencing technology. A Few different technologies have been tested so far. The club ended up purchasing Zoom meeting licenses. Using the TechSoup website Steve, AF7YD was able to get the club a discount on a one year subscription for the licenses. We needed to start somewhere so we did.

The Zoom technology does work and we are learning how to best use it for club business and other meetings. For this reason, we are not indorsing the software at his time. I and a few other club members continue research video conference technology, more to follow!

The Club held its first online board meeting and general meeting using video conferencing technology this month. Both meetings were a huge success. It is important to note that there are a lot of adjustments being made by everyone. Some club members are familiar with video conferencing technology as part of their day jobs, as I am and W7UUU, Dave. However, for most club members this was their first time using technology like this. Plus we have additional changes around meeting formats. These meeting format changes were made to help keep the meeting flowing and productive. What works for an in person meeting most likely will not work for online meetings so some adjustments were made. Tip of the hat to AD7EU, Peter and W7MKE, Mike for being instrumental in developing the online meeting protocols and formats. Like with most things, overtime we will continue to evolve the meeting formats as we learn what works best for the club. Everyone has embraced this new model with ease and grace with members jumping in learning, experimenting with the new software and participating in the meetings.

Another huge change or should I say addition to the Radio Club is the Saturday Morning Virtual Clubhouse get-together. We now have weekly Saturday morning Video Conference calls. This is an informal get together. Unlike repeaters, we have the option to use video cameras. It's nice to see the person you're speaking with and not just hear a voice from a radio. The video is extremely useful when members want to share a project or show off new radio gear. Just turn the camera on and hold up that new toy.

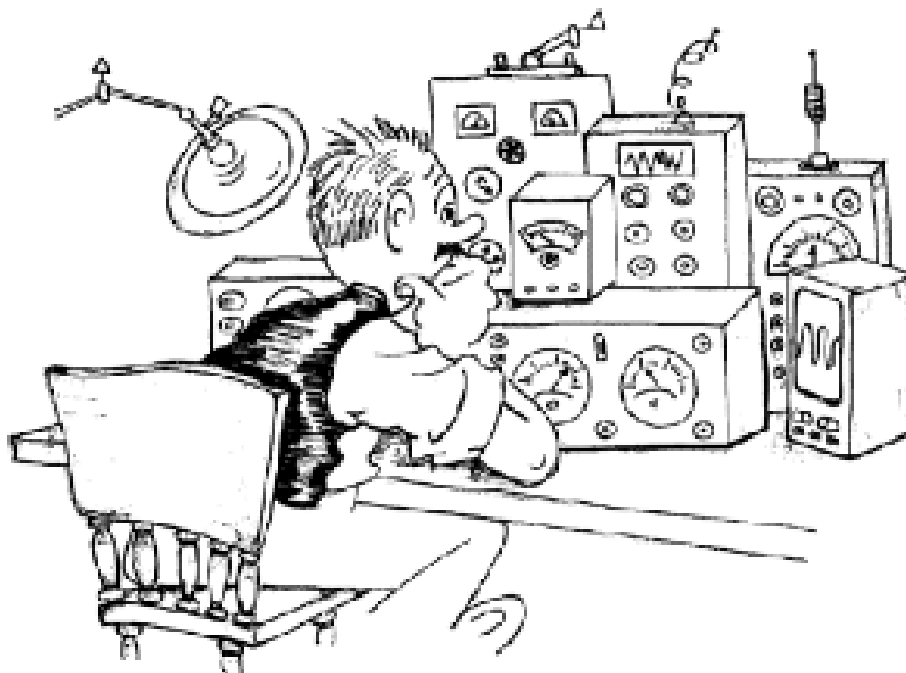
Another benefit of the virtual meetings are members who stop visiting the clubhouse for various reasons are now able to participate and visit with club members. For example, KD4VOM Larry who has been very active for years with the club now rarely visits the clubhouse. Larry is now visiting with members without leaving the comfort of his farm.

On a recent Saturday Virtual meeting, I had a chance to meet, for the first time, long time club member Marv KG7V and KI7ILX Dana. Example of how this technology is connecting hams in our community.

The Zoom meeting details for the Saturday Morning Virtual Clubhouse are on the clubs website. If you have not yet attended one of these meetings, please consider logging on and experiencing one or two. Also, share this info with other club members and hams. Don't let new technology prevent you or others from participating. The software is very intuitive to use, even for people who are not used to working with computers. If you have questions about how to use this software, reach out to me or other members. We will guide you through the process.

Video Conferencing Technology is beginning to look like it will be a real asset to the radio club and the ham radio community. I feel we will be leveraging Video Conferencing now and into the future, long after the virus SARS-CoV-2 is gone.

Adam Barbera W2NCC



THE CLUB LINEUP

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dave Ellison, W7UUU - w7uuu@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis, W7XTZ - w7xtz@w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE - w7mke@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org

5 BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org

Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

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LOGGER'S BARK STAFF

Editor: Gary McAdams WG7X wg7x@w7dk.org

Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma

ARRL Liaison: Unassigned

Send articles to: bark-editor@w7dk.org, or Radio Club of Tacoma, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411

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www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia © 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3